

MEMORANDUM**To:** Board of Regents**From:** Board Office**Subject:** Request to Change the Graduation Requirements at the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School**Date:** July 7, 2003**Recommended
Actions:**

Approve the proposed graduation requirements at the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School.

Background:

The School has recently been confronted with the need to make too many exceptions regarding graduation requirements. It has also become clear that the number of credit hours required for graduation is too high. The proposed changes will result in a more realistic and consistent set of graduation requirements for students attending the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School.

**Summary of
Change**

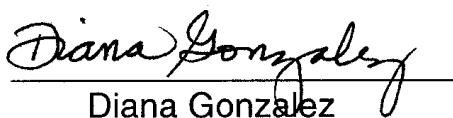
The number of credit hours required for graduation from the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School will be reduced from 62 to 52. The proposed change will occur in Fall 2004.


- ▣ Students enrolled in the academic program (Level 1) will be required to complete 6 credits in language, 4 credits in science, 4 credits in mathematics, 4 credits in social science (including U.S. History and Government), 4 credits in physical education, and 28 elective credits.
 - ⚙ The electives may include instruction in the areas of the expanded core curriculum, such as independent living skills, career education, recreation/leisure, social interaction skills, assistive technology, compensatory skills, orientation and mobility, and visual efficiency skills.
- ▣ Students enrolled in the objective-based program (Levels 2 and 3) will be required to complete 48 credits in the expanded core curriculum and functional academics and 4 credits in physical education.
 - ⚙ The needs of students in Levels 2 and 3 are very diverse; therefore, it is not possible to specify their graduation requirements more precisely. Each student's program will be more heavily weighted with instruction in career education and independent living skills during the transition phase of his/her program.

Reasons for Change	<p>The Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School is proposing a change in the graduation requirements of students enrolled at the School for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The new requirements should allow a student to graduate from high school in four years with a combination of the appropriate Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School and local school district credits.2. The proposed requirements are more in line with typical high school graduation requirements. For example, the Vinton/Shellsburg Community School District will require 52 credits for graduation during the 2003-04 school year.3. The proposed requirements should create a more seamless system for students moving between the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School and their local school district.4. The proposed requirements will provide a method for counting credits that matches the curriculum for students in the School's Levels 2 and 3 programs.
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Analysis:

IEP Process	<p>Graduation requirements for all special education students will follow the prescribed course of study described in the student's Individual Education Program (IEP). Prior to graduation, the IEP team will determine if the graduation requirements have been met.</p>
Iowa Code	<p>According to Iowa Code, §280.14, "the board or governing authority of each school shall establish and maintain ... graduation requirements."</p>
Discussion with Advisory Committee	<p>The Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School Advisory Committee has received the proposed graduation requirements; there were no objections to the changes.</p>
Board Office Recommendation	<p>The Board Office recommends approval of the proposed graduation requirements at the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School.</p>


Diana Gonzalez

Approved: 
Gregory S. Nichols

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Board of Regents
From: Dennis Thurman
Subject: Graduation Requirements
Date: June 23, 2003

Requested Action:

Approve the proposed Iowa Braille School graduation requirements.

Background:

The Iowa Braille School is proposing a change in the graduation requirements of students enrolled at the school for four basic reasons.

1. The new requirements should allow a student to graduate from high school in four years with a combination of the appropriate Iowa Braille School and local school district credits.
2. The proposed requirements are more in line with typical high school graduation requirements. For example, the Vinton / Shellsburg Community School District requires 52 credits for graduation for the 03/04 school year and will increase the requirement to 56 credits in the 04/05 school year.
3. The proposed requirements should make for a more seamless system for students moving between enrollment at the Iowa Braille School and enrollment in their local school district.
4. The proposed requirements will give the Iowa Braille School a method for counting credits that will match the curriculum for Iowa Braille School students enrolled in the Level 2 and 3 programs.

In the proposed graduation requirement, the requirements for all special education students will be in accord with the prescribed course of study as described in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Prior to graduation the IEP team will determine that the graduation requirements have been met. Students have the opportunity to earn 14 credits each school year.

The proposed graduation requirements are found in Attachment A. The former graduation requirements were divided into two documents: 1) Requirements for Students in the Academic Program, Attachment B and; 2) Requirements for Students in the Objective-Based Program, Attachment C.

The Iowa Braille School Advisory Committee has reviewed the proposed graduation requirements and supports them.

Attachment A

Proposed Iowa Braille School Graduation Requirements

Graduation Requirements for all special education students will be in accord with the prescribed course of study as described in the student's Individualized Education Program. Prior to graduation, the IEP team will determine that the graduation requirements have been met. Students have the opportunity to earn 14 credits each school year.

Level 1 Graduation Requirements

Language	6 Credits
Science	4 Credits
Mathematics	4 Credits
Social Science	4 Credits
Physical Education	4 Credits
Electives	<u>28 Credits</u>

52 Credits Required for Graduation

The Social Science credits must include U.S. History and Government. The electives may include instruction in the areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum, which include:

Independent Living Skills	Assistive Technology	Career Education
Compensatory Skills	Recreation/Leisure	Orientation & Mobility
Social Interaction Skills	Visual Efficiency Skills	

Level 2 and 3 Graduation Requirements

Students in the Level 2 and 3 programs will be required to complete

Expanded Core Curriculum and Functional Academics 48 Credits

Physical Education 4 Credits

52 Credits Required for
Graduation

The needs of the students in Level 2 and 3 programs are extremely diverse. Therefore it is not possible to more precisely specify their graduation requirements as can be done with students in Level 1 programs. It is expected that each student's program will become more heavily weighted with instruction in Career Education and Independent Living Skills during the transition phase of the students program.

Attachment B

CURRENT IBSSS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Graduation requirements for all special education students will be in accord with the prescribed course of study as described in their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Prior to graduation, the IEP team shall determine that the graduation requirements have been met.

Language	8 credits
Science	6 credits
Mathematics	8 credits
Social Science	8 credits
(must include U.S. History and Government)	
Physical Education	4 credits
Electives	<u>28 credits</u>
62 Credits are required for graduation	

Electives at IBSSS include –

- Braille
- Orientation and Mobility
- Techniques of Daily Living
- Career Education
- Work Experience
- Industrial Arts
- Music
- Adaptive Communications
- Additional Courses and Experiences

Credits will be counted in the following manner:

90 minute period	5 days/week	semester	=	2
90 minute period	5 days/week	quarter	=	1
45 minute period	5 days/week	all year	=	2
45 minute period	5 days/week	semester	=	1
50 minute period	2 days/weeks	semester	=	$\frac{1}{2}$
50 minute period	2 days/week	quarter	=	$\frac{1}{4}$

Students who are dually enrolled (taking classes) at the Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District should plan on a minimum of five (5) years to complete their high school graduation requirements. Students may complete the requirements in less than five years based upon individual needs and circumstances.

Attachment C

CURRENT IBSSS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS IN THE OBJECTIVE-BASED PROGRAM

Graduation requirements for all special education students will be in accord with the prescribed course of study as described in their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Prior to graduation, the IEP team shall determine that the graduation requirements have been met.

Graduation requirements for students in the Objective-Based Program are based on the completion of activities in each of the skill areas listed in the Competency Based Program document. The Competency Based Program document contains competencies and sub-competencies in the following five domains: vocational, daily living, recreation/leisure, personal/social and adaptations. In order to graduate, the student will need to earn a minimum of the specified number of credits in each domain.

Vocational	30 credits
Daily Living	20 credits
Recreation/Leisure	6 credits
Personal/Social	2 credits
Adaptations	<u>4 credits</u>
62 credits are required for graduation	

Each student will receive one (1) credit per year for physical education which will be counted as Recreation/Leisure credit. Students will earn half (.5) credit per year for each Goal in their IEP that is in the Personal/Social domain as instruction for this domain is integrated in the other domains.

Students will earn one credit per semester for each 45 minute class or activity that takes place five days per week (or 50 minute class that takes place four days per week.)

Students will begin to earn credits for graduation at approximately age fourteen (14).